

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A gas meter valve for connection to a meter outlet of a gas meter, the gas meter valve comprising:
 - a valve inlet coupleable to the meter outlet and adapted to communicate gas from the meter outlet;
 - a valve outlet coupleable to piping for supplying gas to a customer and adapted to communicate gas to the piping;
 - a valve body coupled to the valve inlet and the valve outlet, the valve body including:
 - a chamber for communicating gas from the valve inlet to the valve outlet; and
 - a valve assembly disposed at least partially in the chamber and adapted to:
 - prevent the communication of gas through the chamber when the valve assembly is in a first position; and
 - permit the communication of gas through the chamber when the valve assembly is in a second position, wherein the valve inlet, valve outlet and valve body are arranged so as to replace an existing piping portion provided between the meter outlet of the gas meter and the piping for supplying gas to the customer; and

an actuating mechanism operably coupled to the valve assembly and adapted to position the valve assembly in the first position and the second position.

2. (Original) The gas meter valve of Claim 1, wherein the valve outlet includes a threaded inner surface and a bushing having a threaded outer surface and threaded inner surface, the threaded outer surface of the bushing adapted to receive the threaded inner surface of the valve outlet and the threaded inner surface of the bushing adapted to receive a threaded outer surface of the piping for supplying gas to the customer.

3. (Original) The gas meter valve of Claim 1, wherein the actuating mechanism includes a keyed receptacle operable to receive a tool for manipulating a position of the actuating mechanism.

4. (Original) The gas meter valve of Claim 1, wherein the actuating mechanism includes a manually operable flange mounted on an exterior of the valve body.

5. (Original) The gas meter valve of Claim 1, wherein the valve body further includes an opening extending through a portion of the valve body and the actuating mechanism further includes an opening extending through a portion of the actuating mechanism such that the opening through the portion of the actuating mechanism is at least partially aligned with the opening through the portion of the valve body when the actuating

mechanism is operated to position the valve assembly in the first position.

6. (Original) The gas meter valve of Claim 5, wherein the opening through the portion of the valve body and the opening of the portion of the actuating mechanism are adapted to receive a tamper-proofing mechanism extendable through the openings to prevent the actuating mechanism from being operated to position the valve assembly in the second position.

7. (Original) The gas meter valve of Claim 1, wherein the valve assembly includes a ball valve assembly.

8. (Original) The gas meter valve of Claim 1, wherein the valve assembly includes a soft seat valve assembly.

9. (Original) The gas meter valve of Claim 1, wherein the valve inlet includes a swivel and swivel nut for coupling the valve inlet to the meter outlet.

10. (Currently Amended) The gas meter valve of Claim 1, wherein the existing pipe portion is an elbow ~~valve inlet, valve outlet and valve body are arranged so as to replace an existing piping portion provided between the meter outlet of the gas meter and the piping for supplying gas to the customer.~~

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11. (Original) The gas meter valve of Claim 1, wherein a connection of the valve inlet to the valve body is substantially perpendicular to a connection of the valve outlet to the valve body.

12. (Currently Amended) A gas supply system comprising:
a gas meter having a meter inlet for receiving a gas supply
and a meter outlet for providing the gas supply; and
a valve including:

a valve inlet coupled to the meter outlet and adapted
to communicate gas from the meter outlet;

a valve outlet coupled to piping for supplying gas to
a customer and adapted to communicate gas to the
piping;

a valve body coupled to the valve inlet and the valve
outlet, the valve body including:

a chamber for communicating gas from the valve
inlet to the valve outlet; and

a valve assembly disposed at least partially in
the chamber and adapted to:

prevent the communication of gas through the
chamber when the valve assembly is in a
first position; and

permit the communication of gas through the
chamber when the valve assembly is in a
second position, wherein a connection
of the valve inlet to the valve body is
substantially perpendicular to a
connection of the valve outlet to the
valve body; and

an actuating mechanism operably coupled to the
valve assembly and adapted to position the
valve assembly in the first position and the
second position.

13. (Original) The gas supply system of Claim 12, wherein the valve outlet includes a threaded inner surface and a bushing having a threaded outer surface and threaded inner surface, the threaded outer surface of the bushing adapted to receive the threaded inner surface of the valve outlet and the threaded inner surface of the bushing adapted to receive a threaded outer surface of the piping for supplying gas to the customer.

14. (Original) The gas supply system of Claim 12, wherein the actuating mechanism includes a keyed receptacle operable to receive a tool for manipulating a position of the actuating mechanism.

15. (Original) The gas supply system of Claim 12, wherein the actuating mechanism includes a manually operable flange mounted on an exterior of the valve body.

16. (Original) The gas supply system of Claim 12, wherein the valve body further includes an opening extending through a portion of the valve body and the actuating mechanism further includes an opening extending through a portion of the actuating mechanism such that the opening through the portion of the actuating mechanism is at least partially aligned with the opening through the portion of the valve body when the actuating mechanism is operated to position the valve assembly in the first position.

17. (Original) The gas supply system of Claim 16, wherein the opening through the portion of the valve body and the opening of the portion of the actuating mechanism are adapted to receive a tamper-proofing mechanism extendable through the openings to prevent the actuating mechanism from being operated to position the valve assembly in the second position.

18. (Original) The gas supply system of Claim 12, wherein the valve assembly includes a ball valve assembly.

19. (Original) The gas supply system of Claim 12, wherein the valve assembly includes a soft seat valve assembly.

20. (Original) The gas supply system of Claim 12, wherein the valve inlet includes a swivel and swivel nut for coupling the valve inlet to the meter outlet.

21. (Currently Amended) The gas supply system of Claim 12, wherein [[a]] the connection of the valve inlet to the valve body is ~~substantially~~ perpendicular to [[a]] the connection of the valve outlet to the valve body.

22. (Original) In a gas supply system comprising a gas meter having a meter outlet, a first piping portion operably coupled to the meter outlet and a second piping portion operably coupled to the first piping portion, a method for shutting off a gas supply to a customer while maintaining a gas supply to the gas meter, the method comprising the steps of:

- disconnecting the first piping portion from the gas meter and the second piping portion;

- providing a gas meter valve comprising:

- a valve inlet coupleable to the meter outlet and adapted to communicate gas from the meter outlet;

- a valve outlet coupleable to piping for supplying gas to a customer and adapted to communicate gas to the second piping portion;

- a valve body coupled to the valve inlet and the valve outlet, the valve body including:

- a chamber for communicating gas from the valve inlet to the valve outlet; and

- a valve assembly disposed at least partially in the chamber and adapted to:

- prevent the communication of gas through the chamber when the valve assembly is in a first position; and

- permit the communication of gas through the chamber when the valve assembly is in a second position; and

- an actuating mechanism operably coupled to the valve assembly and adapted to position the valve

assembly in the first position and the second position;
connecting the valve inlet to the meter outlet;
connecting the valve outlet to the second piping portion;
and
operating the actuating mechanism to position the valve assembly in the first position to prevent a flow of gas from the meter outlet to the second piping portion.

23. (Original) The method of Claim 22, further comprising the steps of:

detecting a leak in the second piping portion;
dispatching a gas system technician to operate the actuating mechanism to position the valve in the first position;
repairing the leak in the second piping portion; and
dispatching an authorized repair technician to operate the actuating mechanism to position the valve in the second position.

24. (Original) The method of Claim 22, wherein the first piping portion includes a riser coupled to the meter outlet, an elbow having an inlet coupled to the riser and an outlet coupled to the second piping portion.

25. (Original) The method of Claim 24, wherein an angle of a bend of the elbow is substantially 90°.

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26. (Original) The method of Claim 22, wherein the valve inlet includes a swivel and swivel nut for coupling the valve inlet to the meter outlet.